

# *Children's Book Classics*

## Chatterbooks activity pack



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## *Children's Book Classics*

### **About this pack**

In this Chatterbooks pack we offer a list of some favourite children's book classics and ask 'What do you think is a classic book?'

Our list isn't the ultimate list – there will be books on it which your group loves, books which they hate, books which they haven't yet read but which we hope they will love. And there will be more books which you and your group think we've missed out, and need to be added to the list.

It's mainly agreed that a classic book is one which has stood the test of time, appealing to generation after generation. It can be read again and again, giving magic and pleasure, and sharing thoughts and feelings. As adults we can still read children's classics and find yet more in their pages. Sometimes these books, from another time, can be difficult for children to access: re-tellings or films may help to transmit the magic at the heart of them.

Can newer books be called classics? In our list we've included some quite recent books which are clearly favourites now and we think will continue to be relevant and will be enjoyed in the future. On p7 we give you some definitions we've found, to kick start your group's discussions. As you'll see, pinning down a classic book can be a really personal thing!

In this pack you'll also find discussion and activity ideas relating to the books on our list, and a mix of titles featured in more detail – including retellings, picture book favourites, newer titles, and examples from some of the different series of children's classics.

It's brought to you by The Reading Agency and the publishing partnership **Children's Reading Partners**.

**Chatterbooks** is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children's literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

**The Reading Agency** is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

**Children's Reading Partners** is a national partnership of children's publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many young people as possible.

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- 11 A classics selection: old favourites and new, retellings, picture books, and a sequel. Plus some more activity ideas, linked to these titles.

## Classic children's books – a list to get you going!

Here are long-standing favourites, and some new kids on the block.

What other books would you add to this list?

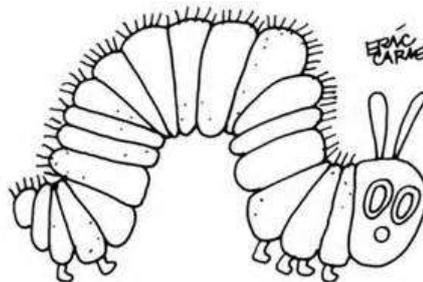
Are there any you think aren't really classics?

Louisa May Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>
David Almond	<i>Skellig</i>
J.M.Barrie	<i>Peter Pan</i>
L. Frank Baum	<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i>
Michael Bond	<i>A Bear Called Paddington</i>
Frances Hodgson Burnett	<i>The Secret Garden</i>
Lewis Carroll	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>
Susan Coolidge	<i>What Katy Did</i>
Roald Dahl	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> and more!
Charles Dickens	<i>Oliver Twist</i> and more!
Kenneth Graham	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>
Ted Hughes & Tom Gauld	<i>The Iron Man</i>
Clive King & Edward Ardizzone	<i>Stig of the Dump</i>
Rudyard Kipling	<i>The Jungle Book</i>
Ursula LeGuin	<i>The Earthsea Quartet</i>
C.S. Lewis	The <i>Narnia</i> series, starting with <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>
Astrid Lindgren	<i>Pippi Longstocking</i>

A.A. Milne	<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>
L. M. Montgomery	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
Edith Nesbit	<i>The Railway Children</i>
Mary Norton	<i>The Borrowers</i>
Philippa Pearce	<i>Tom's Midnight Garden</i>
Philip Pullman	<i>His Dark Materials</i> trilogy
Arthur Ransome	<i>Swallows and Amazons</i>
J.K. Rowling	<i>Harry Potter</i> series
Antoine St Exupery	<i>The Little Prince</i>
Anna Sewell	<i>Black Beauty</i>
Joanna Spyri	<i>Heidi</i>
Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>Treasure Island</i>
Bram Stoker	<i>Dracula</i>
J.R.R. Tolkien	<i>The Hobbit</i>
Mark Twain	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>
Alison Uttley	<i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i>
E.B. White	<i>Charlotte's Web</i>
Laura Ingalls Wilder	<i>The Little House on the Prairie</i>
Jacqueline Wilson	<i>The Story of Tracy Beaker</i>

## Some classic picture books

Janet and Allan Ahlberg	<i>Each Peach Pear Plum</i>
Edward Ardizzone	<i>Tim All Alone</i>
Raymond Briggs	<i>The Snowman</i>
Eric Carle	<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>
Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler	<i>The Gruffalo</i>
Shirley Hughes	<i>Dogger</i>
Judith Kerr	<i>The Tiger Who Came to Tea</i>
Maurice Sendak	<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>
Dr Seuss	<i>The Cat in the Hat</i>
Marin Waddell and Patrick Benson	<i>Owl Babies</i>

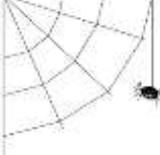


## Ideas for your Chatterbooks sessions

Get together a collection of classics from your library, for children to read and talk about. If possible include different editions and versions of the same story, including picture book and graphic novel versions.

## Who am I?

Identify these well-known book characters – you could use just the words, just the picture, or both.

Storybook character	
<i>'I am a boy who never grows up. I live in Neverland and have adventures with the Lost Boys, fighting pirates and their leader Captain Hook.'</i>	
<i>'I am a girl who went to Wonderland by following a white rabbit down a rabbit hole'</i>	
<i>'I go to Hogwarts school and am learning to be a wizard.....'</i>	
<i>'I own a chocolate factory!'</i>	
<i>'I come from Peru, I like marmalade sandwiches, and I was named after a London railway station.'</i>	
<i>'I have amazing strength and have had lots of adventures. My father was a sea captain – and I can lift and carry a horse!'</i>	
<i>My best friends are Christopher Robin and Piglet. And I like honey!</i>	
<i>I am a spider who tries to save Wilbur the pig from being turned into bacon – in my web I spin the words 'Some pig!'</i>	

You could also play **'Who Am I?'** as a game, where everyone has a post-it on their back (which they can't see!) with the name of a storybook character. They then ask people questions about who they are – e.g. am I a boy, girl, animal? Am I in a fairy story, an adventure story? They can also ask for clues.

You could do this in pairs, taking it in turns to ask questions until each person has worked out who they are.

## Things to talk about

Here are a few discussion ideas to get your group thinking and talking.

Use big sheets of paper to write and draw on and keep these on hand for the whole session to inspire and motivate.

Ask which classic books your group has read and talk about these.

Choose five books which they haven't read: Look at the cover and blurb for each of these books, then read the opening paragraphs of each of them.

See which books they like the sound of the most – which one would they most like to go on and read?

This could then be your group's next reading choice! Does it turn out to be what they'd expected?

## What makes a classic?

It's generally agreed that a classic book is one which has stood the test of time and has become a favourite book for succeeding generations.

What does your group think?

Make a list of their most favourite books – books which they loved, books which they read over and over, books which they would recommend.

They may not (yet) be thought of as classics.

Why do they think these books are special? Make a list of everybody's reasons.

Here are some **thoughts and definitions** people have come up with for classic books – you could pick out a couple of these to kick start your discussion.

*'They (classics) can be from another time - a time of different values, different ways of talking and behaving in society. Sometimes, because of the way language has changed, they can be harder to understand and take longer to read than a modern novel. But even though they are different, they also show how people stay the same. Bobbie, Peter and Phyllis in The Railway Children miss their dad in exactly the same way that Harry misses his parents in the Harry Potter books.'*

(From the Guardian children's books section)

*'(Classics are) books that have been around for many decades, have had an impact on many readers, and can be read with the same excitement and interest today as they were when they were written.'*

(The Guardian again)

*(A classic is) 'a book that has never finished what it has to say.'*

(Calvino: 'Why Read the Classics?' 1980)

Calvino says that in the end it's a personal choice about what makes a classic:

*'Your classic author is the one you cannot feel indifferent to...'*

Some people say there are two kinds of classic novels:

- *Books we know we should have read but probably haven't*
- *Books we've read lots of times and tell our friends 'you have to read this, it's a classic'*

*'Ancient works are classical not because they are old but because they are powerful, fresh and healthy'. (Goethe)*

*'Any book that stays in print'* (Columbia University professor)

*(A classic has) 'a certain eternal and irrepressible freshness'* (Ezra Pound)

### **Promoting your favourites.**

Get your group each to write down the title and author of their favourite book, plus two sentences on 'why everyone should read it' – e.g. is it fun to read, does it make you think, does it have characters you'd like to be or to meet?

Everyone presents their favourite to the group, who then vote for the best presentation.

Talk about the favourites which are recent titles – could these be classics of the future? Can you imagine reading them to your grandchildren?!

You could have a similar discussion around favourite book characters.



## Longer activities

### Book production and covers

Get together different editions of the same classic title. Compare and talk about the covers, the blurb, and general presentation and content. Which edition do people think works best? You could do this with several titles – and then ask people to choose a title and design a new front cover for it.

### The film of the book....

Choose a book to read and a film of it to watch together. What are the differences? And the similarities? Did you like the book better? Or the film? Or both equally? What other films of classic stories have you seen? Did they get you to read the book? Or did the book take you to the film?



### Across the generations

Invite parents and carers to your group's meeting, or plan a joint meeting with a local adult book group. Ask the adults which were their favourite books when they were children, and if possible, arrange for copies to be at the meeting. Maybe some of the adults have kept their special books!

And ask your group to come prepared to tell the adults about their favourite books. Lots to talk about! – which of the adult choices are still read and enjoyed now? Were they already classics when they were children?

Do the adults still read again these books from their childhood? How do they find them now that they're grown up?

And do you think some of the children's favourites will become classics of the future?

## Inspiration from the classics

Talk about how books can inspire you – have any books made a difference for people in your group? Cheered them? Given them ideas or ambitions? Made them take a new look at something?

Here are just a few excerpts from some famous classics which could inspire:

*'Grab a chance and you won't be sorry for a might-have-been.'*

(from *Swallows and Amazons*)

When an opportunity knocks, don't be afraid to take it.

*'I knew who I was this morning but I've changed a few times since then.'*

(Alice, in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*)

We are changing and developing all the time. It's natural to change our views and ways of doing things.

*'You're BRAVER than you believe, STRONGER than you seem, SMARTER than you think.'*

(From *Winnie the Pooh*)

*'If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.'*

(From *The Hobbit*)



## A classics selection: old favourites and new, retellings, a sequel, and picture books



### Louisa May Alcott *Little Women* Oxford Children's Classics

Open your heart to the unforgettable March sisters . . . Sensible Meg, hot-headed Jo, quiet Beth, and pretty Amy might be sisters, but they're not alike, and they don't always get along. But when the going gets tough, they know they always have each other.

**Louisa May Alcott** was born in 1832; she grew up in Concord, Massachusetts. Educated by her father, the Transcendentalist thinker Bronson Alcott, she was influenced by the prominent men of his circle. Emerson, Hawthorne, Parker and Thoreau. The family was usually short of money, and she worked at various tasks from sewing to writing to help to support it. The Civil War broke out in 1861, and in 1862 she began to work as a volunteer army nurse in a Union Hospital. With the publication of *Little Women*, her first full-length novel for girls, Alcott leapt from being an obscure, struggling New England writer to becoming the best-selling American author of the century. However, she suffered from ill health aggravated by early deprivation and overwork. Alcott died in Boston in 1888.

**At the end of this Oxford Children's Classic you'll find Bonus Features including Reading Notes, facts about the author, and top tips from the cover artist Jessica Townsend**



### David Almond *Skellig* Hodder 978-0340997048

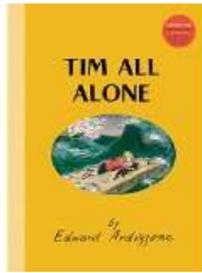
When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical: a strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina,

Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital. But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes forever . . . *Skellig* won the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book Award and is now a major Sky1 feature film.

**David Almond** is one of the most exciting children's authors writing today. His books include *Skellig*, *Kit's Wilderness*, and *The Fire-Eaters*. His latest book is *A Song for Ella Grey*. He lives in Northumberland.

*She unrolled a picture of Skellig, with his wings rising from his back and a tender smile on his white face.*

**Skellig is part angel – talk about angels, what we think they are, what they do. Do you know other stories about angels? Look at these ways in which we use the word 'angel': guardian angel; fallen angel; singing like an angel; angelic behaviour; Be an angel!; angel hair; angel cake**



## **Edward Ardizzone *Tim All Alone* Frances Lincoln 978-1847806284**

Little Tim's adventures at sea have delighted generations of children ever since the first book was published in 1936. In this Kate Greenaway winning title, Tim arrives home after a long holiday to find his parents have vanished. He is determined to search the whole wide world, if necessary, to find them, and sets out on a journey filled with sea-faring adventure.

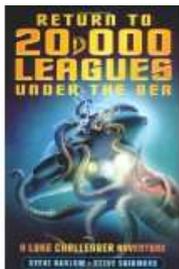
**Edward Ardizzone** was the eldest of five children. In 1905 his family moved to Ipswich, where he learnt to know and love the little coastal steamers that he was to draw so often in the Little Tim books. Illustrator of more than 170 much-loved children's books, Edward Ardizzone was awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal in 1956 and the CBE in 1971. He died in 1979.

**This is a special reissue of this Kate Greenaway award winning book – 2016 will mark 60 years since it was first published. It includes a QR code which links to an audio book read by Stephen Fry. Look out too for these Little Tim titles also being reissued by Frances Lincoln:**

***Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain* 978-1847806291**

***Tim's Friend Towser* 978-1847806314**

***Tim to the Rescue* 978-1847806307**



## **Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore *Return to 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* Usborne 978-1409521426**

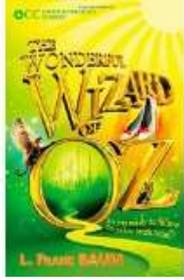
Pirates, sea monsters and atomic weapons, Luke Challenger is back and heading deeper into danger in a race against time to save the world. With his trusted cousin Nick, he has learnt that Captain Nemo's ginormous submarine, the Nautilus, has been found wrecked in a deep trench at the bottom of the Indian Ocean. Luke must reach it before the sinister Sons of Destiny salvage the ship's unique atomic engines, and turn them to their own diabolical ends. Jules Verne's classic *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* is revisited in this thrilling new action-adventure novel..

**Steve Barlow** lives in Somerset - when he's not writing, he enjoys sailing. **Steve Skidmore** lives in Leicester and trained as a teacher before becoming a full-time author. **The Two Steves** began collaborating in 1987 and have produced a large body of work, which they are actively involved in making available as Apps.

***Luke gasped as an eye appeared in the starboard window- a gigantic eye, almost human in appearance. The eye withdrew to be replaced by a beak like a parrot's, which tapped at the glass as though the creature were trying to break in. It withdrew, and long arms and tentacles, covered with suckers appeared.***

***"Giant squid." Jessica was trying hard to keep her voice level but she was plainly terrified.***

**Imagine your own fearsome sea monster! What features does it have? What are they like? How many heads, arms, legs, tentacles? Collect together your ideas and create a picture in words. Then collect lots of materials – shiny paper, cellophane, string, cloth, anything! – and create a picture in collage!**



## **L. Frank Baum *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* Oxford Children's Classics 978-0192738318**

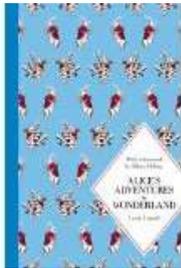
What are you looking for? Friendship! Fantasy! Adventure! Excitement! Dorothy and her friends know there's only one person who can help make their wishes come true and that's the Wizard. But as they set off to find him, the Wicked Witch is never far behind . . .

**Lyman Frank Baum** was born in Chittenango, New York in 1856. After various jobs including journalist and actor, Baum wrote his first book *Mother Goose in Prose* in 1897. He went on to write over sixty books, including, in 1900, his most famous novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. L. Frank Baum was married with four children and died in 1919.

**At the end of this Oxford Children's Classic you'll find Bonus Features including Reading Notes, facts about the author, and top tips from the cover artist Sam Hadley.**

**'...the story of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*...aspires to being a modernized fairy tale, in which the wonderment and joy are retained and the heart-aches and nightmares are left out.'**

**This is what the book's author, L. Frank Baum, says in his introduction when the book was published in 1900. Does your group agree?**



## **Lewis Carroll & Sir John Tenniel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* Macmillan Classics Edition 978-1447273080**

A timeless heroine, Alice is quick-witted, determined and resourceful. In her extraordinary adventures she meets a series of unforgettable characters, from the bossy White Rabbit to the grinning Cheshire-Cat and the Mad

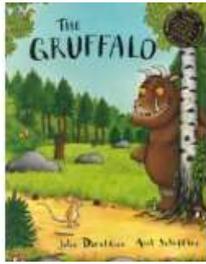
Hatter, all of whom are as famous as Alice herself. Lewis Carroll told these stories to Alice Liddell and her sisters on a 'golden afternoon' on the river Thames near Oxford. This edition has the original line drawings by John Tenniel, with plates coloured by John Macfarlane.

**Lewis Carroll** was born in 1832. He studied at Christ Church, Oxford and was a mathematics lecturer there. His most famous works are *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and the sequel *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*, which contains the classic nonsense poem *The Jabberwocky* (1872).

***Anon, to sudden silence won,  
In fancy they pursue  
The dream-child moving through a land  
Of wonders wild and new,  
In friendly chat with bird or beast -  
And half believe it true.***

From verses by Carroll at the beginning of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

**'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice, without pictures or conversations?'  
What does your group think about this?!**



**Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler *The Gruffalo*  
Macmillan 978-0333710937**

*"A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.  
A fox saw the mouse and the mouse looked good."*

Walk further into the deep dark wood, and discover what happens when the quick-thinking mouse comes face to face with an owl, a snake and a hungry gruffalo . . .

**Julia Donaldson**, the 2011-2013 Children's Laureate, is the prize-winning author many much-loved picture books including *The Gruffalo*, *What the Ladybird Heard* and *The Snail and the Whale*.

**Axel Scheffler** is a German-born illustrator based in London. He is best known for his cartoon-like pictures for children's books, particularly *The Gruffalo*.

**Get your group to learn all the words (they probably know most of them already!) and recite and act them out in unison – performance poetry!**



**Ted Hughes & Tom Gault *The Iron Man*  
Faber 978-0571226122**

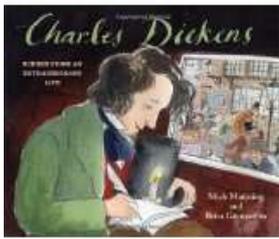
Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction by the Iron Man and set a trap for him, but he cannot be kept down. Then, when a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world.

**Ted Hughes** (1930-1998) was born in Yorkshire. His first book, *The Hawk in the Rain*, was published in 1957 by Faber and Faber and was followed by many volumes of poetry and prose for adults and children, including *How the Whale Became*, and the children's poetry anthology *The Rattle Bag*. He was Poet Laureate from 1984, and in 1998 he was appointed to the Order of Merit.

***The wind sang through his iron fingers. His great iron head, shaped like a dustbin but as big as a bedroom, slowly turned to the right, slowly turned to the left. His iron ears turned, this way, that way. He was hearing the sea. His eyes, like headlamps, glowed white, then red, then infra-red, searching the sea. Never before had the Iron Man seen the sea.***

**From this description create a picture of the Iron Man.**

**Imagine some more giant creatures – e.g. the Plastic Man, the Wooden Man. Write a description of one of them striding through a town, or the countryside, or across a river.**

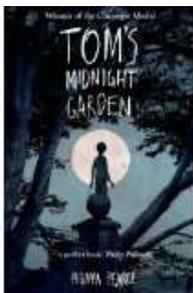


**Mick Manning & Brita Granström** *Charles Dickens: Scenes from an Extraordinary Life* Frances Lincoln  
978-1847801876

Inspired by Charles Dickens' own words, Mick and Brita bring this extraordinary genius to life, showing Dickens' childhood working in a London boot polish factory and his rise to fame as a young novelist. Follow him as he climbs a volcano, goes on tour to the US, presides at a family Christmas and gives a thrilling public reading. And discover the stories of ten of Dickens' most famous novels, dramatised for younger readers with captions and graphic-novel comic-strips.

**Mick Manning and Brita Granström** have been writing and illustrating non-fiction picture books for twenty years. Their most recent books include: *The Beatles*, *Charlie's War Illustrated* and *Secrets of Stonehenge*.

**Have a look at the comic-strips in this book, telling some of Dickens' stories. Choose a classic story by another author and have a go at turning it (the whole story, or selected scenes) into a similar style comic-strip**



**Philippa Pearce** *Tom's Midnight Garden*  
OUP 978-0192734501

When Tom is sent to stay at his aunt and uncle's house for the summer, he resigns himself to endless weeks of boredom. As he lies awake in his bed he hears the grandfather clock downstairs strike . . . eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . . Thirteen! Tom races down the stairs and out of the back

door, into a garden everyone told him wasn't there.

In this enchanted thirteenth hour, the garden comes alive - but Tom is never sure whether the people he meets there are real or ghosts . . .

This entrancing and magical story is a much-loved children's book.

**Philippa Pearce** spent her childhood in Cambridgeshire and was the youngest of four children of a flour-miller. She worked for the BBC as a scriptwriter and producer, and then in publishing as an editor. The village, the river, and the countryside in which she lived as a child, appear in her books *Minnnow on the Say* and *Tom's Midnight Garden*, for which she won the Carnegie Medal.



## **J.K. Rowling *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* Bloomsbury 978-1408855652**

Do we need to describe this story!

Harry Potter has never even heard of Hogwarts when the letters start dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. They are swiftly confiscated by his grisly aunt and uncle – and then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a giant of a man called Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing

news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin!

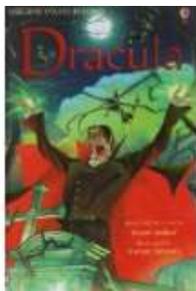
These new editions of the classic and internationally bestselling series feature instantly pick-up-able new jackets by Jonny Duddle, to bring Harry Potter to the next generation of readers.

It's time to PASS THE MAGIC ON

**J.K. Rowling** is the author of the bestselling *Harry Potter* series of seven books, published between 1997 and 2007, which have sold over 450 million copies worldwide, and have been turned into eight blockbuster films. She has also written two small volumes, which appear as the titles of Harry's schoolbooks within the novels. *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and *Quidditch Through The Ages*.

**Jonny Duddle** worked as an art teacher before becoming a full-time illustrator. He has produced concepts, models and inspirational art for computer games, including Looney Tunes, and now works mainly on children's books, including the popular adventures of *The Pirates Next Door*.

**Harry Potter Night** - celebrated in February, but you'll still find the [resources online](#)



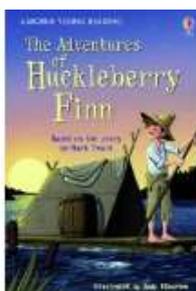
## **Bram Stoker *Dracula* Usborne Young Reading 978-140950931**

**Retold by Rosie Dickins, illustrated by Victor Tavares**

A dramatic retelling of Bram Stoker's classic horror story retold for children ready to tackle longer and more complex stories. Jonathan Harker has no idea of the horrors that await him in Castle Dracula. An ancient evil is alive and hungry for new blood.

Can Jonathan and his friends defeat it?

**This edition comes with a CD with a superbly characterised reading and lively original music.**

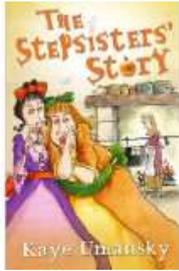


## **Mark Twain *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Usborne Young Reading 978-1409564409**

**Retold by Rob Lloyd Jones and Andy Elkerton**

Mark Twain's classic tale of escape and adventure rivetingly retold for today's readers. To get away from his violent, drunken father, Huckleberry Finn fakes his own death and lives wild in the woods. He soon meets Jim, a runaway slave, and the two outcasts set off on a dangerous journey down

the mighty Mississippi river, in search of freedom.



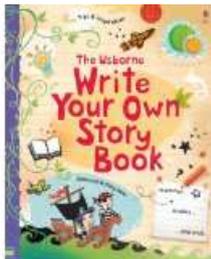
**Kaye Umansky & Mike Phillips**  
***The Stepsisters' Story***      **Barrington Stoke**  
**978-1781120392**

Lardine and Angula have a new stepsister, Ella, and they are determined to make her life as miserable as possible. Throwing tantrums and sulks, they ensure that she is forced to sleep by the fire, do the chores and certainly not go to the ball. But will their schemes stop the prince from meeting the girl of his dreams? A fun twist on the Cinderella story.

Children's author and poet **Kaye Umansky** has written over 130 books, most famously her *Pongwiffy* series which has been published as a cartoon TV series and as audiobooks. Also available from Barrington Stoke is the *Weird Family* trilogy. Kaye lives in North London.

**Choose a favourite story – e.g. another fairy tale, or a book from our classics list on p3 – or any other story which is special for you.**

**Then write a simple re-telling of that story from the point of view of another character – e.g. the prince in *Snow White*, Nana in *Peter Pan*, or Mr Perks in *The Railway Children*!**



And why not ***Write Your Own Storybook*** !  
**Louie Stowell & Jane Chisholm**  
**Usborne 978-1409523352**

Aspiring young writers will love this fun activity book full of hints, tips and handy tasks for writing stories. The first half of the book is full of writing tips and techniques, with helpful activities on coming up with ideas, writing from different points of view and creating characters, settings and story lines. The second half of the book is full of story themes to write about, from murder mysteries to tales from outer space. With lots of lined space to fill, each activity comes with suggestions for characters, settings and objects to write into the story as well as questions to prompt the imagination.

**There are two activity sheets from the book for you to [download](#) and get started!**

## **Series**

Several publishers have produced **series of children's classics** – here are some of them, with those featured in this pack highlighted in bold.

HarperCollins – Collins Classics  
**Macmillan Classics**  
**Oxford Children's Classics**  
Puffin Classics  
Wordsworth Classics

Scholastic Classics  
**Usborne Young Reading**  
Usborne Classics Retold  
Vintage Children's Classics